

**Irritation Caused by the Sting of the Bethyloid Wasp, *Holepyris hawaiiensis* Ashm.**

BY C. E. PEMBERTON

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During June and July, 1931, a family resident on the beach at Niu, Honolulu, has been greatly annoyed by the irritation resulting from stings by a small bethyloid wasp, determined by Dr. F. X. Williams as *Holepyris hawaiiensis* Ashmead.

This little wasp was found to occur rather commonly about the house and was no doubt breeding upon some small lepidopterous larva occurring either in the woodwork of the house, in stored foods or in dried and broken Algaroba seed pods, *Prosopis juliflora*, or other vegetation which is abundant and adjacent to the house. The host larva was not found. The insect was found in the bed clothing and in and on the clothes of the persons concerned. It stung readily when crushed or held in the clothing against the skin. Since it naturally searches in crevices and concealed places in search of its host, it frequently gets into clothing and bedding.

The immediate sensation following attack is comparable to that of an exaggerated mosquito bite. However, the itching and slight smarting of the affected spot usually lasts for several days and is accompanied by a swelling or welt a half inch or more in diameter which terminates as a dark blotch on the skin which may last for one or two weeks.

Similar, but much more violent effects have been caused in California by a somewhat similar bethyloid wasp, *Epyris* sp., near *clarmontis* Kieffer. This has been described in detail in Science, Vol. LXV, No. 1682, pp. 302-303, March 25, 1927.

*Holepyris hawaiiensis* was found in quantity in the warehouses of the Union Feed Company in Honolulu in December, 1919, by J. C. Bridwell, where lepidopterous insects favoring stored food

products were common. E. M. Ehrhorn has reared it from *Ephestia cautella*.

This species has been studied by J. C. Bridwell and Dr. F. X. Williams. An account of its habits by Bridwell appears in Proc. Haw. Ent. Soc., Vol. IV, No. 2, pp. 311-14, 1919.